



The Arboretum Bulletin

VOL. III, No. 5.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

MAY, 1940

Please Note

IN ORDER to avoid the often recurring conflicts in dates, of events of interest to garden lovers, the Arboretum Foundation is offering its services in keeping a register of all such events in Seattle. Its success, of course, is entirely dependent on the cooperation of the clubs and the individuals interested. By telephoning to the Foundation office any week day from 8:00 to 12:00, you can find out which dates are free for a lecture, a garden trip, or a demonstration you may be planning. In this way it will not conflict with plans already made by other groups, in which your own members or the public whom you wish to attract might be interested.

After consulting the Foundation register, you can set your date definitely. Send a notice to the office of the Arboretum Foundation and the secretary will register the event for that day, so that it can be reported to anyone inquiring about it, or planning other events at that time.

It is purely in the public interest that we are undertaking this service. It is to be entirely free to everyone, irrespective of Foundation membership, and we ask your assistance and cooperation in publicizing it. A telephone call to SEneca 0920 will give you further information.

 * * *

Arboretum Acquisitions for March and April

THE ARBORETUM acquired 2,216 plants, principally trees and shrubs, by gift and purchase from money donated by groups and garden clubs during the month of March. These included 418 azaleas for Azalea Way planting, donated by the Seattle Garden Club, magnolias for the Fabi Memorial, maples from the Tacoma Garden Club, lilacs from the Spokane Garden Club, 1,105 miscellaneous trees and shrubs from the University of Washington Building and Grounds Department, 920 of which were azaleas which will be used along Azalea Way. Other contributions came from the Kenmore Garden Club.

Acquisitions for April were not so great in number but from Kew and Edinburgh came one packet each of seventy different varieties of rhododendron seeds, showing that international interest in the Arboretum persists in face of war and general European desolation.

A collection of eighteen plants of five varieties of magnolias was purchased for the Fabi Memorial. This memorial planting to honor the memory of Mr. Fabi will be one of the noteworthy collections of magnolias on this Coast. To many such a collection will be a revelation as to the value of magnolias in this climate.

The Amateur Gardeners, who are sponsoring the Sasanqua collection of camellias, gave an additional gift of twenty-four plants of three varieties.

Mr. Arthur Dome of Medina gave a fine collection of five varieties of calluna and erica. Mr. Dome is rapidly becoming recognized as an authority on the propagation and cultivation of ericas and callunas.

The West Seattle Garden Club contributed fifty plants of evergreen huckleberry to be used in the woodland planting.

The Olympicans, Inc.

ALL OF US who are citizens of the state of Washington should be interested in the activities of The Olympicans. The organization has as one of its principal objectives the systematic and intelligent planting of roadside with the native rhododendron.

Such a program, if wisely prosecuted, can be of considerable benefit to the state. All of us are aware of the great beauty that is imparted to the roadside landscape along the Olympic peninsula by magnificent rhododendrons in full bloom in May, and the majority of us would enjoy seeing such plantings extended into many more localities. That is precisely what The Olympicans, Inc., are doing—fostering plantings in various parts of Western Washington. Recently the organization completed a survey of all the rhododendron planting that was done in this region during the past year. As a result they have reported that 12,000 rhododendrons were planted in the 12-month period. This enables them to predict the ultimate success of the ten-year program upon which they have embarked and it is gratifying to all of us who are interested in the furtherance of the project to learn of such highly satisfactory results. Their objective is to sponsor the planting of one million rhododendrons along our highways by 1950.

It is our belief that the Arboretum should cooperate with the Olympicans in every possible way. We also feel that our efforts in the immediate past have been an aid to the furtherance of the program. At the time of the plant distribution at the Arboretum in early April, we placed in the hands of our members approximately 4,500 rhododendron seedlings. They were seedlings of Asiatic species to be sure; none of them were the native species that the Olympicans are using. And practically every one of them will be used for ornamental purposes in home gardens.

The planting of our roadsides is receiving increasing attention from private individuals, civic groups, and state officials. It is a matter that should be studied carefully and intelligently so that the rising enthusiasm can be properly directed. Aside from the expense item, a number of other details are quite important. Consider the program as outlined by the Olympicans. It would obviously be unwise to plant rhododendrons along every foot of our highways, even in Western Washington. There are many roadside

areas in which rhododendrons could never become established, so severe are the conditions. For such areas other native shrubs and trees would be much more desirable. In some cases it might even be wise to make use of exotic species, if they are able to adapt themselves to the particular situation and if they blend well with the native vegetation which appears in the background.

The program of The Olympicans, Inc., is commendable and should be actively encouraged. But it does not represent the solution to the whole of the problem, by any means.

* * *

Sulphur Dust for Dusting

A RECENT note prepared by Dr. D. B. Creager in the Illinois State Florists' Association Bulletin on the use of sulphur for dusting purposes, brings out some interesting and important points that all gardeners should know.

"Ordinary flowers of sulphur, sublimed or otherwise, or commercial flour sulphur is too coarse to be most satisfactorily and effectively used as a dust. When buying a sulphur for dusting, insist upon a guarantee of 325-mesh fineness, which means that 93 to 100 per cent of it is fine enough to pass through a sieve with 325 holes to the inch or about 105,000 holes to the square inch. A sulphur dust fine enough to pass through such a screen is fluffy and is truly a *dust*."

"Because of its fineness, 325-mesh sulphur is much easier to use as a dust than the coarse flowers of sulphur. Also a much smaller amount of this fine sulphur is required to thoroughly cover and protect leaf surfaces against fungous infection.

"There are on the market a number of exceedingly fine sulphur dusts and pastes which are sometimes described as 'colloidal sulphurs'. Because they are made up of microscopically fine sulphur particles, they adhere thoroughly to leaves and can be washed off only with difficulty.

"Fine dusting sulphur should not be applied heavily. A heavy application is not only unnecessary but is wasteful and more likely to result in the burning of young leaves. It is much better to dust frequently and lightly than less often and heavily. Since only a little dusting sulphur is required for satisfactory coverage, the sulphur discolors the foliage much less. Sulphur specially prepared for dusting costs more per pound, but in the long run it is more economical and does a much better job of disease control."

* * *

Cypress Tip Moth

THERE has been a marked increase this spring in the activity of the Cypress Tip Moth or Tip Borer. Many specimens of *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana*, Lawson's Cypress, have been submitted which show very severe damage. In many cases whole trees have become brown from top to bottom.

The damage is caused by the larva of a moth. The adult female deposits eggs on the surface of the leaves during the spring. The larvae which hatch from the eggs are very small and penetrate the tips of the branchlets, killing them completely. Pupation occurs within the twig, the adult emerging in the spring to complete the cycle.

Several control measures have been recommended. Dr. E. P. Breakey of the Western Washington Agricultural Experiment Station at Puyallup suggests nicotine sulphate at a concentration of 1 to 800 plus 1 to 2 per cent summer

oil. Mr. D. J. O'Donnell, state horticultural inspector, recommends adding arsenate of lead to the above ingredients in order to provide a stomach poison that will kill the larvae as they eat into the twigs. A good combination of all three ingredients would be 1½ teaspoons of nicotine sulphate, 3 tablespoons of lead arsenate and 1½ tablespoons of summer oil per gallon of water. Spraying should begin about May first in a normal season, and should continue at monthly intervals during the summer.

During the current spring much damage has also been done to the true cypress, *Cupressus macrocarpa*, by this insect.

* * *

Notes on the Cultivation of Blueberries

By WALTER J. EYERDAM

AT THE ARBORETUM we have the wild native *Vaccinium* growing in its natural habitat. Many fine specimens of *V. parvifolium*, which is common in Seattle, are scattered sparingly throughout the grounds. *V. ovatum*, or western evergreen huckleberry, is growing in several patches along Washington Boulevard, associated with kinnickinnick under pine trees.

Various hybrids of eastern blueberries not only produce delicious berries in profusion but with a little trimming and proper soil conditions make beautiful ornamental shrubs. There are many showy characters worthy of attention, such as the various shades of green, yellow, red and brown bark, the branching twigs, the showy umbels of pink or coral-hued flowers and finally the tints of blue to nearly black berries among the bright green leaves.

For the Arboretum the evergreen varieties of blueberry bushes are more desirable than the heavy bearing commercially propagated kinds. A good selection of various types is already growing or will be acquired in the spring. Among these are evergreen *V. corymbosum* in a number of varieties showing different types of leaves in shades of bright green to bright red and differing much in size. Experiments by crossing pollen of these persistently leaf-bearing blueberries should result in producing some desirable ornamental stock.

About ten species of exotic *Vaccinium* including several of the rarest upper Burmah Kingdon-Ward species have recently been acquired as a gift from the Snydor blueberry farm at Bellevue.

A few notes on some of the rare *Vacciniums* from the south slope of the Himalayas are taken from a letter from Kingdon-Ward. These have been presented to the Arboretum by Mr. Snydor. The Kingdon-Ward *Vacciniums* from the Himalayas, which have field labels, will later receive their proper names from Kew Gardens after bearing flowers and fruit and are of horticultural interest. We have the following plants at the Arboretum:

K. W. 13013—A shrub two to three feet high with large leathery leaves on long drooping branches. Berries black. Grows on granite cliffs in moss forest at 9,000-foot altitude.

K. W. 13052—An undershrub with small leathery leaves and white or pink flowers in short crowded racemes. Berries first red, ripening black. Epiphytic or on granite rocks on exposed ridges at 9,000- to 10,000-foot altitude.

K. W. 13174—An epiphytic root climber, also trailing on moss-covered cliffs in shade, the long thread-like stems half buried in moss and hanging in festoons. Leaves small, leathery. Berries scarlet—in moss forest, 9,000-10,000-foot altitude.

K. W. 13188—A stiff, erect, bushy undershrub, up to one foot tall, growing on an exposed granite ridge at over 10,000-foot elevation. Berries blue; very rare.

K. W. 13286—A handsome shrub five feet tall, with long drooping branches and very large leathery leaves, mealy beneath. Flowers white in big bunches, drooping, fruits glaucous, blue, clusters of small grapes. Grows in thickets outside of the forest at 5,000-foot altitude; rare.

K. W. 13373—An erect bushy alpine undershrub, five to nine inches tall, berries numerous in compact clusters, black. Grows in boggy alpine pastures with dwarf rhododendron at 12,000-foot altitude. The soil is very sandy loam, wet as a sponge in summer.

K. W. 13376—*Vaccinium modestum*—Height two to four inches. Flowers solitary, nodding, pink, very large. Leaves thin, turning wine purple in winter. Berries blue, on very rocky and turf-covered alpine slopes of igneous rock, at 12,000-foot altitude—gregarious.

K. W. 13—*Vaccinium glauco-album*—An erect gregarious undershrub, six to nine inches tall. Flowers pink in drooping racemes, crowded, in axils of pink persistent bracts. Leaves leathery, white beneath, the young foliage pink. Berries glaucous blue. Among rocks in the open, 8,000- to 10,000-foot altitude. Will stand snow.

 * * *

Early Seattle Gardens

By GLADYS FRANCE BAKER

DURING my first year in Seattle in 1888-89 I lived in two furnished houses, one scantily furnished one-room house, one tent, and boarded for two months.

The city was growing fast and there wasn't always room for the new bride. During all this time my only plants were a row of sweet peas, and at the boarding house a magnificent La France rose which I later bought and transferred to my own garden. In my second year I had a garden of my own on the last platted lot at which is now Summit and Columbia and time and opportunity for seeing other gardens.

The ones I remember best are the Haller garden on Minor Avenue and the Smith garden at Smith's Cove, now Interbay. The latter had huge old rose bushes without names that may have been brought from the East by wagon train. The daughter of the house gave me cuttings from them and I still have one in my own garden.

Madame Haller's garden of flowering plants and vegetables covered most of the block where the house stood. Many people grew their own vegetables, as practically all that could be had in the market came by boat from California. The Haller garden had many things that were new to me—English primroses, a sweetbriar hedge, and a long row of the new French artichoke grown as an ornamental, and most wonderful of all, tea roses. I came from Central New York and had never seen a tea rose growing in the open and here they were growing and flourishing, and blooming like mad. I have always thought it a pity that the tea rose has been so largely supplanted by the hybrid

tea in the modern garden. Surely there is room for both, and such roses as Homer, Perle de Jardins, Perle des James, Papa Gautier, Marie van Houtte, Mme. Hoste, Mme. de Watteville and Marechal Niel should not be forgotten. Madame Haller had all these in her garden and gave me cuttings of every one and enough primroses to edge my garden beds. I still have a sweetbriar from her garden, and a Polyantha Rose Mignonette, that I bought that first spring, oldtimers both, but half and hearty.

All Seattle gardens in those days were fenced. Many families kept cows which were allowed to roam at night. There was no herd law. And many had hedges of privet just inside the fence. In the rainy season many roofs were green with moss, probably roofs that had never been painted or stained, and I admired them very much. But in the summer when the moss dried up the fire department considered it a fire hazard, so the order went out that roofs were to be scraped and kept clean, and now the moss has forgotten how to grow.

Now that holly is commonly grown it seems strange to remember that we used Oregon grape for holly and anyone who had a few sprigs of real holly sent down from Victoria for Christmas was generally envied. There was a holly tree, possibly two, in the old Lawton nursery on Yesler Way, but I doubt if there were ever any berries, and Mr. Lawton said it took two years to root a cutting. Mr. Lawton had also in his nursery some yuccas that he said looked like pieces of statuary in the garden when they bloomed, and he grew chrysanthemums in frames to protect the bloom against bad weather. I had never seen chrysanthemums except in the conservatories at Cornell University and one small bronze button in grandmother's garden.

English ivy was much grown on houses and porches. A bare porch would have looked positively immodest, and sometimes a whole house would be covered with it. Climbing roses were used on porches also. I had Gloire de Dijon, I remember, and Lamarque and Duchesse d'Auerstadt, but the finest ones I ever saw were Gold of Ophir and Marechal Niel. The Marechal Niel could also be cut from an upper porch and the Gold of Ophir covered a whole end of a house and had to be kept cut away from the doorway. I wanted to have a wisteria; there was a magnificent one on the old Denny place on First Avenue (Front Street, it was then), but I was told that one would not bloom till it was twenty-five years old, and maybe not then, and I did not want to wait that long.

One early development that should be interesting to friends of the Arboretum was an Arbor Society organized by Mrs. W. H. H. Greene with the object of planting the streets uniformly instead of allowing each property owner to plant his favorite in front of his own place. Mr. Lawton was a member, I recall, and I had the honor to act as secretary for a short time, but had to relinquish my connection because of absence from the city. They did, however, plant Madison Street with Lombardy poplars, this being Mrs. Greene's favorite tree, and some of the trees were still standing quite recently, but have all now succumbed to the march of improvement, I believe.

So many things have been introduced into gardens in fifty years, it seems strange to remember how few things we had, but we all had gardens, and they were sweet and lovely: not as lovely as today's gardens, maybe, but I do think they were sweeter.

My own trees that I planted around my first home have fared better. They are cork-barked elms and they are still there, big and thrifty. I drive by sometimes to see my trees.

Arboretum Foundation, 4420 White Building
Published by the
SEATTLE

THE ARBORETUM BULLETIN

[Sec. 562 P.L. & R.]